

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /063 W

----- 093146

R 291025Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1560

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 0786

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: SITHOLE RETURNS TO LUSAKA

REF: A) LUSAKA 775; B) CAPE TOWN 472

1. UNDER TIGHT ZAMBIAN SECURITY, ANC LEADER NDABANINGI SITHOLE RETURNED TO LUSAKA APRIL 26 ACCOMPANIED BY HIS TWO SONS, BOTH STUDENTS IN US. SITHOLE TOLD WAITING PRESSMEN THAT ZIMBABWEANS ARE NOT PREPARED TO WAIT TEN YEARS FOR MAJORITY RULE BUT THAT THEY COULD NEGOTIATE TERMS WHEREBY MAJORITY RULE CAN BE ACHIEVED OVER SHORTER TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. SITHOLE REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON HOW LONG THAT PERIOD SHOULD BE, SAYING THIS WOULD BE RESPONSIBILITY OF CONSTITUTIONAL

CONFERENCE WHEN IT MEETS. HE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT MORE THAN FIVE YEARS TRANSITION PERIOD WOULD
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BE UNACCEPTABLE TO AFRICANS. MOREOVER, ANY INTERIM ARRANGEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE DOMINATED BY AFRICANS TO ASSURE MAJORITY RULE NOT DELAYED.

2. REGARDING CONTROVERSY OVER PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S ALLEGED "TIMETABLE" GIVEN TO RHODESIAN WHITE FARMERS (REFTELS), SITHOLE SAID HE HAS KNOWN KAUNDA FOR LONG TIME AND DOES NOT BELIEVE PRESIDENT COULD HAVE MADE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. ANC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER JAMES CHICKEREMA HAS ALSO DENIED FARMERS' VERSION OF MEETING WITH KANKHDHSL

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: CHICKEREMA DENIAL APPARENTLY BASED ON BRIEFING WHICH HE TOLD US KAUNDA GAVE MUZOREWA AND OTHER ANCMTEADERS FOLLOWING FARMERS' VISIT. CHICKEREMA THOROUGHLY DISGUSTED WITH ANC SPOKESMAN EDSON SITHOLE FOR CIRCULATING ALLEGED REPORT TO SALISBURY PRESS AND THEREBY FURTHER STRAINING ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT PATIENCE WITH ANC. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

4. ON HIS OWN FUTURE, NDABANINGI SITHOLE QUOTED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL AS SAYING HE INTENDS RETURN TO RHODESIA WHETHER OR NOT DETENTION ORDER AGAINST HIM IS VACATED. HE DID NOT SAY WHEN. MEANWHILE, HE PLANS TO STAY IN LUSAKA TO STUDY "WITH AN OPEN MIND" SITUATION CREATED BY MURDERING

OF
US LATE LIEUTENANT
HERBERT CHITEPO AND SUBSEQUENT ZAMBIAN DETENTION OF MANY OF SITHOLE'S FORMER ZANU FOLLOWERS. HE WILL ALSO HELP ORGANIZE NEW ANC OFFICE HERE AND SPEND SOME TIME WITH HIS SONS. HE HOPES MEET WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA UPON LATTER'S RETURN FROM CARIBBEAN NEXT MONTH.

4. SITHOLE ALSO TOLD PRESS HE SUPPORTS CONTINUATION OF ARMED STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA. HE SEES NO OTHER FORM OF PRESSURE THAT COULD INDUCE SMITH TO RELEASE 300 NATPNALISTS STILL IN DETENTION.

5. APRIL 28 ZAMBIAN PRESS HEADLINED DECISION OF ANC LEADERS, WHO MET IN SALISBURY OVER WEEKEND, TO MAINTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR REFUSAL TO RESUME
TALKS WITH SMITH REGIME UNTIL IT
FULFILLS CONDITIONS, INCLUDING RELEASE OF DETAINEES, AGREED TO IN LUSAKA LAST DECEMBER.
NELSON

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